

OPEN ARMS

1994

..... MICHIGAN'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

DEAR SISTERS,

I've just returned from the 19th. Michigan Womyns Music Festival where I was privileged to be one of the 699 workers who make this marvelous event happen for over 6,000 womyn this year. I consider this to be my real job and enjoy it more than any other time of year.

The moment I arrived on the land I was greeted with smiling faces, hugs, and kisses from all my friends and co-workers. I checked in at Emerald City for a mug shot and to be banded and went to set up camp before work.

The worker's camping area is conveniently located close to the main concert stages for faster, easier access to our jobs. I prefer to live out towards the triangle just so I can walk by this womyn with the most beautiful smile I've ever seen in my life....the type that takes your breath away and cuts off the flow of oxygen to the brain, making it impossible to even think, let alone carry on a conversation..psheW!

I work in festi-wear, the only place on earth to get the official Michigan Womyn's Music Festival clothing. Before anything gets sold, everything is counted, folded, and sorted by color, size, and style. This takes several days for many womyn. We set up displays inside the tent and outside on our pole so that while womyn are waiting in line they can get an idea of what they might like to purchase.

Friday nite pre-fest, after dinner and the nightly meeting, Alix Dobkin treated the workers to a concert in the Bellybowl. (worker's dining tent).

Saturday nite, worker's bazaar, the dining room becomes a mini-mall, full of womyn selling their crafts...self produced tapes, pottery, buttons, herbs, and oils, knitted wear, leather goods, tarot readings, t-shirts, etc...

Sunday nite, the no talent/talent show at the August Nite Cafe - Impressive, some of the acts belonged on Night Stage.

Monday, get ready, the gates open! Some womyn wait outside

for days to be the first inside and set up where they want to be. This is the largest lesbian tailgate party anywhere. Due to the cold weather, womyn were busy setting up before buying shirts so we had a nice slow day.

Tuesday, busiest day for us. Everyone works 12 hours. Time zooms by when womyn are lined up through the snake and down to the road. The weather makes quite a difference in sales, by the end of the day we were sold out of sweatshirts.

Wednesday...WOW...its like groupie heaven..Lucie Blue Tremblay walks up to buy her festi-wear and I'm all too eager to assist. What a wonderful job to have. I sit in the 3rd. row for her concert later and like always was captured by the spell of musical magic to such an extent that I was totally oblivious to the fact that it was raining. Tears rolled down my face as she performed, "Getting Old", an song written for her mother. Throughout the evening we heard almost all the songs from TRANSFORMATIONS, the third album, Ave Maria, and more.

Thursday, wake up tired, cold, and wet, off to get coffee and hot shower, then to work. There's such a demand for warm clothes, we brought the old stock out, kept lots of womyn warm and sold quite a bit, too.

At the Day Stage, womyn demonstrate how to do self breast exams and can't stress enough how very important this simple procedure is. Obviously not everyone is listening or so many womyn wouldn't still be dying from a treatable disease. Check yourself once a month. It could save your life.to be continued

-Kim



COMMUNITY EVENTS



VIDEO NIGHT

Coming Out Is A Many Splendored Thing
and
Ballad of Little Jo

We're starting the season off with a double header. Coming Out Is A Many Splendored Thing (30 Min) is light fun--low budget--low violence and sex.

See the making of a Suuuper Execudyke, a good group therapy session, suggestions for dating made easy and lots more. Well worth seeing. I think you'll really like the star, Debbie.

The Ballad of Little Jo (2 hours) is heavy--high budget--very good acting--classy--STRONG WOMON.

Josephine finds herself posing as a man, Jo, to ward off men and buy her own piece of land in the old West. She's hetero, but fully in charge. This film stays with you a while.
(Some violence)

Friday, Sept. 9th

7 p.m.

For directions call Gloria at (616)-684-4011

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday

7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O. Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120



MARY'S GARDEN CLUB

(Pretty Maidens All in A Row)

Closed for the season. Will open again for those early spring transplants.

EVENTS COORDINATORS

3rd Friday Out: Jackie (219)-291-5837

Wimin's Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616) 684-4011

Game Night:

Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marcia (219) 271-0338

3RD FRIDAY OUT

Hacienda

Lincolnway Avenue

Friday, Sept. 16th

7:00 p.m.

For reservations, call Jackie at 291-5837 by Wednesday, Sept. 14.

*****ATTENTION*****

COORDINATORS NEEDED--

GAME NIGHT--there isn't one this month because no one volunteered to coordinate this event. Could you for maybe just the rest of the year? Call any staff member.

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Mary (219) 234-5986

Sheree (616) 684-6365

Kaye & Marcia (219) 271-0338

Advertising: Kaye or Marcia

Subscriptions: Kaye or Marcia



All you softball supporters - - thank you, thank you, thank you. You mean more to Whistle Stop than you can imagine. We may not have said anything at the time, but we heard all your cheers, your words of encouragement, your caring sighs. You were there for us when other teams had next to no one. You made us feel like we were all a big family, players and supporters together.

Whistle Stop came in 3rd. this year compared to next to last last year. We've grown in skill and number under the leadership of our much appreciated Coach Sheree. She took a job that no one else would fill and gave us two years of experience we would not have had without her. We all owe her a great deal.

Some groundwork is being laid for an even better season next year. All of you supporters who felt even a slight urge to be a player, get your mitts out and start getting in shape (or don't bother to get in shape) because we just might have a position waiting for you.

NEWS NOTES

--The fourth annual Lesbian/Gay Day at Disney drew an estimated 20,000 lesbians and gay men to the Disney theme park on June 4. A small group of about two dozen protestors picketed along the road leading to the park. Signs outside the park stated that "members of the lesbian/gay community have chosen to visit the Magic Kingdom today in their recognition of Lesbian and Gay Pride Month" and that Disney "does not discriminate against anyone's right to visit the Magic Kingdom." A park spokesperson did caution, though, that "We have guidelines regarding public displays of affection for everyone on any day in the park. We ask people to remember that it's a family park and not to engage in passionate activities." --info from Lesbian Connection & Outlines--

--Fast food giant Domino's Pizza choose James Dobson to receive its annual humanitarian award. Dobson is president of Focus on Family, a right-wing christian organization located in Colorado Springs that played a vital role in the passage of Colorado's anti-homosexual Amendment 2. Meanwhile, the Coors Company recently sent our press releases boasting of their "progressive" employment policies. The releases ignored the fact that the Coors family is one of the leading donors to the political far right in the US. It should be noted that Zima, the heavily promoted clear malt beverage, is a Coors product. -- info from Lesbian Connection--

--Sen. Edward Kennedy and Reps. Barney Frank and Gerry Studds (all Mass) introduced a bill into congress that would ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation in most workplaces. Coretta Scott King spoke at the introduction of the bill on June 23 to emphasize that equal job rights for lesbian/gay Americans is a priority for the civil rights movement. The legislation has 30 co-sponsors in the Senate and 113 co-sponsors in the House. Anyone who's experienced anti-homosexual job discrimination is asked to contact Sophia Michelakis at HCRF (you may remain anonymous). Phone (202)-628-4160, fax (202)-347-3523, E-mail: doc.disc@glib.org --info from Lesbian Connection--

--The Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation has announced grants for over \$1.3 million to: The National Center for Lesbian Rights (\$450,000), The Jetrick-Martin Institute in New York (\$300,000), the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation (\$400,000), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (\$175,000), and New York University Law School was given \$100,000 to endow a fellowship for homosexual civil rights. --info from Lesbian Connection



--In Los Angeles, about 100 couples attended what is believed to be the first school-sponsored lesbian/gay prom in the nation. The \$15-per-person event was supported with donation form local lesbian and gay organizations. --info from Outlines--

--Two weeks after Vermont announced that it would offer insurance benefits to unmarried partners of state employees, New York governor, Mario Cuomo, announced that his state will also be offering health coverage to the domestic partners of lesbian and gay state workers. Will Indiana be next? --info from Lesbian Connection--

--At the beginning of the year, there were 10 statewide anti-homosexual initiative efforts underway but there will be only two initiatives on the November ballot (in Idaho and Oregon).

--In early August, the Senate voted 63-36 to cut off federal funds to all school districts that encourage or support homosexuality as a "positive lifestyle alternative." Under the measure proposed by Sens. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and Bob Smith, R-N.H., districts that distribute instructional materials or provide counseling about homosexuality or refer students to lesbian/gay organizations will not receive money under the Elementary and Secondary Act. --info from USA TODAY--

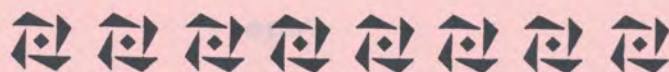


NEW MICHIGAN PAPER FOR WIMMIN

A tabloid size newspaper to approach news and events from a woman's point of view was planned for publication in August. The Michigan Women's Times will respond to the growing demands of Michigan wimmin who seek a forum for information, inspiration and confirmation of their own unique experiences and potential. The paper will be published every other week and will be distributed a key locations throughout the state as well as delivered to subscribers who seek the convenience of home delivery. In addition to current events from a woman's perspective, the paper will offer standard features such as commentaries, profiles of Michigan wimmin, a digest of international and national woman-related headlines, literature and entertainment review, travel, business and finance and event calendars. For more information regarding editorial contributions and /or ideas, advertising and subscriptions, please write:

Michigan Women's Times, PO Box 3595, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-3595

--info from Lavender Morning--



IS MAUPIN TOO HOT FOR PBS TO HANDLE?

The Public Broadcasting System has announced it will not fund the sequel to Armistead Maupin's *TALES OF THE CITY*. Although the original *TALES* was the highest-rated dramatic production that PBS has ever aired, and was well-received by critics and viewers alike, it was also targeted by the American Family Association, who opposed its portrayal of lesbian and gay life as happy, well adjusted, and fulfilled. Let PBS know that their mandate to represent all communities includes our community—even in shows that aspire to do no more than entertain. Write: ERVIN DUGGAN, PRESIDENT, PBS, 1320 BRADDOCK ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-1698.

SMOOCHES FOR ABC



After meetings with GLAAD/NY and GLAAD/San Francisco regarding its broadcast policies, ABC agreed to add lesbians and gay men to the list of groups that cannot be misrepresented, ridiculed or attacked on its programming. This came about thanks to objections by our community when the network's Broadcast Standards and Practices department tried to pull the plug on Roseann's lesbian kiss. Thank ABC and encourage them to make lesbians and gay men more visible by writing: CHRISTINE HIKAWA, VICE PRESIDENT, BROADCAST STANDARDS AND PRACTICES, ABC, 77 WEST 66TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023.

— GLAAD/NY BULLETIN

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE STILL BANNED IN HAWAII

Honolulu-AP-A gay couple was rebuffed, June 17, when they applied to the state Department of Health for a marriage license. William Woods and Marc Thompson were told their application would be held pending the outcome of the case on same-sex marriage. A state law that bans same-sex marriage in Hawaii is currently being challenged by three other gay couples. The issue will be decided by the Supreme Court.

info from Lavender Morning



EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.



Place: Milton Township Community Hall,
Niles, MI
Date: October 15, 1994
Time: 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight Ind. time
9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Mich. time
Admission: \$5.00 at the Door ONLY

(no advance tickets)

A Woman's
Event

Music by
DJ

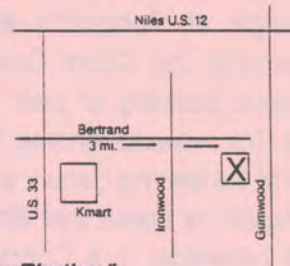
Refreshments
Door Prizes

Volunteers Needed

Call 616-684-7362 for information.



BYOB



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FROM: Dino Sierp, Branching Out Productions
317-637-2906

WHO: Canadian Singer-Songwriter, Ferron with Special Guest Local
Bloomington Artist, Carrie Newcomer

WHEN: Friday, September 23, 1994 • 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Walker Theatre, 617 Indiana Avenue, Indianapolis

TICKETS: \$17/Advance • \$19/Door • Tickets available through charge-by-phone at
317-637-2906 and at Dreams and Swords Bookstore in Broad Ripple.

P.O. Box 2907 • Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 • 317/637-2906 • Fax: 317/637-2936

WOMYN OF NORTH CENTER INDIANA!!

Sappo's Network is trying to reach YOU! We are a social/support group. If you are interested in attending one of our bi-monthly meetings or receiving our newsletter, please contact us at:

SAPPHO'S NETWORK
P O BOX 1325
LOGANSPOUT, IN 46947-1325



VOLUNTEERING GOOD FOR YOU--A 30-year study found women with the highest opinion of themselves worked as volunteers (whether or not they had other paid employment). Benefits include constant social support, enhanced physical and mental activity, and a sense of purpose through helping others.

SEXUAL EQUALITY IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Maria Lepowsky was the first and only anthropologist to live with the people of Sudest Island, or Vanatinai, meaning motherland. Sudest is a sparsely populated island in the Louisiade Archipelago of Papua New Guinea. The people there are an anthropologist's dream because they have had minimal contact with Western colonialism and missionaries.

On Vanatinai, women and men live and work as equals. It is not a place where women and men live in perfect harmony and where the "privileges and burdens of both sexes are exactly equal," Lepowsky says, "but it comes close." "Close enough," she says, "to challenge the position of some anthropological theorists that male dominance is a universal trait of human culture." Lepowsky's findings suggest instead that perhaps Vanatinai and her people could serve as a model of what a sex-egalitarian society might be like and a counter-model to the ideologies in nearly all other cultures.

On Vanatinai, everyone participates in community decisions, meeting face to face, instead of delegating power to a few leaders; Vanatinai has no chief. The culture is matrilineal, with kinship and inheritance traced through the mother's clan. Both women and men inherit land and other property. Vanatinai, unlike other Pacific cultures, has no special men's meeting houses or cults, and the language is gender-neutral, with no pronouns like she or he. Girls and boys are responsible for caring for younger siblings and men are expected to care equally in child-rearing. Women have as much sexual freedom as men, and young people frequently marry several times before they settle into a lasting relationship.

Although Vanatinai's god of creation is a male figure, the mythology of the culture includes mainly powerful female deities. Both women and men have access to supernatural power through communication with ancestors and other spirits.--info The New York Times

Are you receiving your copy of the Open Arms? Do you know anyone who is interested in receiving a copy of Open Arms? If you are experiencing any problems with receiving the Open Arms or know of anyone interested in receiving it please write to:

Open Arms
P O Box 845
Mishawaka, IN 46546

SHE TV Coproduced by "Laugh-In" mentor George Schlatter and veterans of the "Saturday Night Live" staff, this new comedy-variety series purports to take women's viewpoints--hence the "SHE" in the title--in exploring differences between the sexes humorously. The eight-member ensemble cast includes Dennis Miller's former late-night sidekick Nick Bakay, as well as Jennifer Coolidge and Linda Kash.

IMPROVE YOUR MEMORY--Try these tips to help remember new names. Make sure you hear the name. Repeat it and use it in conversation. Associate a person's name with a feature of their face. Get a business card or write the name down.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the October *Open Arms* is September 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Mary, Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after September 10th may not be published in the October newsletter.

Newsletter meeting: Sunday, September 11th, 1994 at Kaye and Marcia's, 6:30 p.m. Call 271-0338 for directions.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.



Do You Have "Toxic Parents"?

I see many clients whose relationships are falling apart, their careers are going down the tubes, they aren't happy with what they are doing at work or in their life, they suffer from depression, or they may be abusive to themselves or to others. If you experience any of these symptoms, you too may be suffering from the effects of having had toxic parents. I am recommending the book "Toxic Parents" by Susan Forward as a self help book which gives you some helpful ways to overcome your hurtful legacy and reclaim your life. What are "toxic parents"? They are parents who have caused harm to their children through inadequate parenting, emotional or physical neglect, alcoholism, or physical, verbal, or sexual abuse. They damage their children's self-esteem, making them feel they're not good enough to deserve such things as happiness or success.

Susan says that grownup children raised by such parents need to take back the power from their parents and start to set their own boundaries and limits. This indeed can give that adult a sense of self-esteem and self-worth. Also, gently confronting your parents about what they did and how it made you feel, as well as how it affected your life and what you need from them now, can shift the balance of power and help the grownup child stop feeling powerless, frightened, and helpless. The more toxic the parents, the worse they will probably respond; in fact, they may attempt to use guilt and shame, both useful forms of abuse to put you in your place. Whatever their response, you'll survive. Most of us forget that we don't need our parents for our physical or mental well-being anymore. You may have to practice staying in your adult role when doing such an activity, remembering it is the inner child that usually holds the pain and hurt, as well as the fear that reacted to the guilt and shame.

Whatever the abuse or neglect, or pain, until you as a victim find the power to talk about these things in a calm and powerful way, you may never have a relationship based on reality. Susan's message is "until you put the blame where it belongs, on your parents, you can't free up the child in you to heal and become a spontaneous and loving person". No child is ever responsible for such abuse or neglect, nor are they responsible for what they do as children. You are, however, 100% responsible for fixing it now for yourself, and when you do, a 10 ton weight may feel as though it has been lifted from your shoulders. Most important of all, you'll stop the cycle from repeating itself with your own children or in your relationships.

Cathy Lambert, ACSW, CCSW, 271-0702



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MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.



DRIFT-WOODS COTTAGES

Two-bedroom and one-bedroom cottages available on Lake Michigan, ten minutes south of Saugatuck, Michigan. The cottages are open year around, are fully furnished, have well-equipped kitchens, and linens and towels are provided for bedroom and bath. The living rooms have gas log fireplaces. Gas grills are provided for outdoor barbecues. The beach is accessible via stairs. Hiking trails, sand dunes, cross-country skiing, shops galleries, restaurants, antique shopping nearby.

Call Susan for weekend, mid-week, weekly visits at (616) 857-2586.

*New! Opening in June...a new women's guesthouse!
Call about special pre-opening rates in May.
Book now for Holland, Michigan Tulip Festival, May 4th-14th.*

Saugatuck on the river...

DEERPATH LODGE

...an enchanting retreat

Deerpath Lodge sits atop a dune overlooking the Kalamazoo River. Surrounding evergreens, oaks, and an extensive wildflower garden provide a rustic charm. The river and 45 acres seclude our private retreat from public access. Saugatuck, the infamous art colony, and mecca of innovative shops and restaurants is just five minutes by car, longer by boat. We offer three spacious guest rooms, each with private bath; one with kitchenette. A wholesome breakfast is provided.

Guest Rooms For Women

For Reservations & Information:
P.O. Box 849 Saugatuck, Michigan 49453

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S E P T E M B E R

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
AA Elkhart 7 p.m. every Sunday				1	2	3
4	5	6 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	7 NOW Mtg St. Joe Libr. 7:00 p.m.	8	9 Video Night Niles 7:00 p.m.	10 M
11 Open Arms Mtg 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14 Reservations due for 3rd Friday Out	15	16 Third Friday Out 7:00 p.m.	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 PFLAG Mtg. 2-4 p.m.	26	27	28	29	30	

ALL Times are Indiana time.

Subscription for Open Arms -- \$10.00/year

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

Make check payable to Open Arms and mail it
to: Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN
46546.

Same Time Every Month

1st Wednesday - NOW Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Main
Library, Corner of Main and Wayne,
South Bend. Call 288-7123 for info.

4th Sunday - P-FLAG Meeting 2-4 p.m., Christ
the King Lutheran Church, 17195
Cleveland Rd., South Bend. Call
Nancy at 277-2684 for more info.

OTHER COMING EVENTS

SEPT 9-11-SISTERSPACE POCONO WEEKEND. (215)
476-2424 for info.

SEPT. 10- 6th Annual Lesbian Business
Association's OHIO LESBIAN FESTIVAL.
11 a.m. - midnight. Frontier Ranch
near Kirkersville, OH, \$15 advance,
\$20 at gate. KAREN WILLIAMS, SUSAN
HERRICK and others. Call (614) 267-
3953 for info.

SEPT. 23- FERRON - 8 p.m. at The Walker
Theatre, 617 Indiana Ave.,
Indianapolis. \$17 advance, \$19 at
door. Call (317) 637-2906 for
tickets and info.

OCT. 1 - BUILDING BRIDGES: GAY AND LESBIAN
CHRISTIANS AND THE CHURCH - 8:30
a.m. to 4 p.m., Trinity Episcopal
Church, Ft. Wayne. \$25 advance, \$35
at door. Bring your own lunch. For
more info: Rev. Robin Thomas (219)
423-1693.

OCT. 7-9- SECOND NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMEDY
CONFERENCE with Karen Williams, Sara
Cytron and others. Columbus, OH.
(216) 289-2939 for info.

NOV. 19,20 JUSTICE, INC. statewide awards
banquet and civil rights conference.
More info next month or call Wally
at (812) 474-4845.